

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 150673
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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 150673

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MASS, SO, US

SUBJECT: US-SOMALI RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: LUNCHEON CONVERSATION BETWEEN SOMALI AMBAS-
SADOR ADDOU AND DEPTOFF JUNE 24 COVERED ADDOU'S UNDER-
STANDING OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT JUNE 16.
END SUMMARY

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2. ADDOU SAID HE HAD BEEN VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD AN IMPROVEMENT
IN US-SOMALI RELATIONS. HE UNDERSTOOD PRESIDENT TO HAVE
SAID THAT US GENUINELY WELCOMES CLOSER RELATIONS WITH
SOMALIA BECAUSE US FEELS SOMALIA IS "ONE OF US". ADDOU
INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN NOT THAT SOMALIA IN WESTERN VS.
COMMUNIST CAMP BUT THAT SOMALIS AND AMERICANS SHARE

RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY, BELIEF IN VALUE OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY , AND CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. ADDOU REGARDED MEETING AS MILESTONE TOWARD IMPROVED RELATIONS PARTICULARLY GIVEN PRESIDENT'S FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE TOWARD MILITARY SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA. ASKED FOR HIS UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT PRESIDENT HAD SAID, ADDOU

ASSERTED THAT PRESIDENT HAD INDICATED U.S. WILLINGNESS TO SUPPLY ARMS TO SOMALIA, WHICH WOULD BE VERY WELCOME NEWS TO PRESIDENT SIAD WHEN ADDOU REPORTS TO HIM AT END OF MONTH. DEPTOFF SAID THAT HIS UNDERSTANDING FROM MEMCON OF MEETING WAS THAT PRESIDENT HAD INDICATED THAT, IN CONTRAST TO ECONOMIC AID, MILITARY AID WAS MORE DIFFICULT FOR US BUT THAT U.S. WAS WORKING WITH SAUDIS AND EUROPEAN ALLIES TO SEE THAT SOMALIA HAS ADEQUATE DEFENSE CAPABILITIES WITHOUT RELYING ON USSR. DEPTOFF NOTED THAT THIS FELL SHORT OF A COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY US ARMS. HE ALSO STRESSED PRESIDENT'S USE OF PHRASE "ADEQUATE DEFENSE CAPABILITIES". HE SUGGESTED THAT FROM WHAT WE HAVE HEARD ABOUT SOMALIA'S PRESENT ARSENAL, SOMALIA HAS A GREAT DEAL MORE AT THE MOMENT THAN REQUIRED FOR LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES, IF THEY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO PROVIDE ARMS FOR SOMALIA, WOULD WANT TO ENSURE THAT THEY WERE NOT ADDING TO SOMALIA'S OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY BUT WOULD RATHER
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BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FOR GAPS IN SOMALIA'S DEFENSIVE STRUCTURE AS AND WHEN SUCH GAPS DEVELOPED. ADDOU INSISTED THAT SIAD WANTED NO MORE THAN THAT, I.E., KNOWLEDGE THAT THERE WAS A SAFETY NET AVAILABLE TO HIM FOR DEFENSIVE NEEDS SHOULD HE END HIS RELIANCE ON THE USSR. VANCE

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